



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,044	09/13/2003	David J. Laverick	702.270	1972
38933	7590	03/09/2007	EXAMINER	
GARMIN LTD.			DIACOU, ARI M	
C/O GARMIN INTERNATIONAL, INC.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ATTN: Legal - IP			3663	
1200 EAST 151ST STREET				
OLATHE, KS 66062				
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/09/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/663,044	LAVERICK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ari M. Diacou	3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8,13,14 and 30-46 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8,13,14 and 30-46 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-21-2006.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. In the remarks filed 11-22-2006, applicant argued the following:
 - A. On page 13, that the 132 declaration overcomes the rejections under Schoenfish and Susko.
 - B. On pages 13-18, that the cited art does not teach "removably".
2. Argument A is unconvincing. The claims under prosecution are drawn to subject matter that was first disclosed on 9-13-2003, in the specification of the instant application. The specifications of the parent cases, 10/397662 and 10/411821, do not disclose a carrying case, and as a result the subject matter drawn to the carrying case does not benefit from a previous filing date. As a result, the Schoenfish reference (USPN 6370037) is available under 102(b) to reject claims 1, 31 and their respective dependent claims. Therefore, according to MPEP 2133.02:

A rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) cannot be overcome by affidavits and declarations under 37 CFR 1.131 (Rule 131 Declarations), foreign priority dates, or evidence that applicant himself invented the subject matter. Outside the 1-year grace period, applicant is barred from obtaining a patent containing any anticipated or obvious claims. *In re Foster*, 343 F.2d 980, 984, 145 USPQ 166, 170 (CCPA 1965).

3. Argument B is moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first two paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 40-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. "No securing mechanism" is not enabled, if something is not secured, it falls toward the center of the earth. In the instant application's specification, the securing means is at least Fig. 26, 182i. In the interests of compact prosecution, the examiner will assume that "no securing means" reads on a recess whose face has a normal vector substantially antiparallel to the weight vector of the navigational device.

6. Claims 2-8, 13, 31-39 and 41-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Regarding claims 8 and 13, 8 specifies that the speaker and navigational device be on the *base* of the case, 13 specifies that the speaker and navigational device be on the *lid* of the case. Since 13 is dependent on 8, claim 13 for failing to particularly point out what the applicant regards as the invention.
- Regarding claims 2, 31 and 42, "originally installed during the manufacture of the vehicle" is indefinite for failing to limit what is added to the structure by this

limitation. In the interest of compact prosecution, the examiner will prosecute the claims under the assumption that the above claim language adds no structural limitations to the inventions of claims 1, 31 and 41.

Specification

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- On page one of the specification, line 17: _____ / _____ → 10/633,045.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-8,13,14 and 30-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Toshiaki (IDS filed 11-21-2006).

10. Claims 1-4, 14, 31-33 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schoenfish et al. (USP No. 6370037).

- Regarding claims 1, Schoenfish discloses a navigation assembly for use in a vehicle comprising:
 - a navigational device; and [Fig. 1, #12]

- a carrying case sized and configured to removably fit substantially within a tray of the vehicle and configured to substantially enclose the navigational device, [Fig. 1, #14]
 - wherein the case is configured to conform to the tray. [Fig. 2]
- Regarding claims 31, Schoenfish discloses a navigation assembly for use in a vehicle comprising:
 - a navigational device; and [Fig. 1, #12]
 - a carrying case sized and configured to conform to a tray of the vehicle, [Fig. 1, #14]
 - *wherein the tray is originally installed in the vehicle during manufacture of the vehicle* [This language does not structurally limit the claimed invention.]
 - wherein the carrying case may be removed from the tray with the navigational device substantially enclosed therein. [Fig. 2]
- Regarding claim 2, Schoenfish's device could be installed during the manufacture of the vehicle.
- Regarding claim 3 and 32, Schoenfish discloses [Abstract].
- Regarding claims 14 and 38, the limitations thereof are inherent to all GPS devices disclosed by Schoenfish.
- Regarding claims 4 and 33, Schoenfish discloses Col. 5, lines 10-18.

11. Claims 41-42 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being on sale (or in public use) more than one year before the filing date of the invention, as evidenced by Amazon.com's advertisement of the "Garmin 010-10314-00 Carry Case", which was available for sale at latest on 2 October 2001.

- Regarding claim 40, as best understood by the examiner, Amazon.com discloses a navigation assembly for use in a vehicle comprising:
 - a navigational device; and [Device inside the carry case]
 - a carrying case [Neoprene case] configured to substantially enclose the navigational device, the case being sized and configured to fit within a tray on a dashboard of the vehicle [A cup holder reads on the tray]
 - such that no securing mechanism is needed to secure the case within the tray. [As discussed above, a cup holder reads on the examiner's interpretation of what the applicant means.]
- Regarding claim 41, cup holders are originally installed in vehicles.
- Regarding claim 42, Amazon.com discloses the navigation assembly as claimed in claim 40, wherein the carrying case includes a base and a hinged lid [the neoprene flap], such that when the navigational device is pivoted to a flat, nesting position within the case, the lid is operable to enclose the navigational device, and when the navigational device is pivoted upwards in a viewing position, the lid is operable to pivot upwards and rest generally against a top of the navigational device.

Art Unit: 3663

- Regarding claim 45, Amazon.com discloses the neoprene flap, when closed, being placed vertically above the "base"/bottom of the carry case, thereby the flap enclosing the bottom of the carry case.
- Regarding claim 46, one would only have to reach into the cup holder and grab the case/navigator.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

Art Unit: 3663

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

15. Claims 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over amazon.com as applied to claim 40 above, and further in view of official notice.

- Regarding claim 43, Amazon.com discloses the invention with all the limitations of claim 40, but fails to disclose a navigator with a speaker. It is well known in the art that GPS navigators can contain speakers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art (e.g. design engineer) at the time the invention was made, to make a case that fit around a GPS navigator with a speaker, for the advantage of protecting the audible navigator.
- Regarding claim 44, when the hinged flap is open, one can still see the screen through the plastic window, it is thereby in a viewing position.

16. Claims 5-8, 13, 30, 34-37 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoenfish as applied to claims 1 and 31 above, and further in view of Trumbull (USP No. 6125030).

- Regarding claim 5, Schoenfish discloses the invention with all the limitations of claims 1 and 31, but fails to disclose a lid. Trumbull teaches a compartment with a hinged lid that could be used to enclose the device of Schoenfish. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art (e.g. an optical engineer) at the

time the invention was made, to place device of Schoenfish in the compartment of Trumbull, for the advantage of protecting the device of Schoenfish.

- Regarding claims 6 and 35, Schoenfish discloses [Abstract].
- Regarding claims 7 and 36, Schoenfish's device has a speaker, therefore, it would be contained in the case of Trumbull in the obvious combination described above.
- Regarding claims 8, 30, 37 and 39, Trumbull's device has a recessed base that would enclose the navigational device, and the speaker enclosed therein. Therefore, both would be positioned within the base of the case.
- Regarding claims 13, 30, 34, 37 and 39, in the obvious combination described above, the device of Schoenfish would be placed between the hinged lid and the recessed based, thereby meeting the claimed limitation.

Conclusion

17. While patent drawings are not drawn to scale, relationships clearly shown in the drawings of a reference patent cannot be disregarded in determining the patentability of

claims. See In re Mraz, 59 CCPA 866, 455 F.2d 1069, 173 USPQ 25 (1972).

18. The references made herein are done so for the convenience of the applicant.

They are in no way intended to be limiting. The prior art should be considered in its entirety.

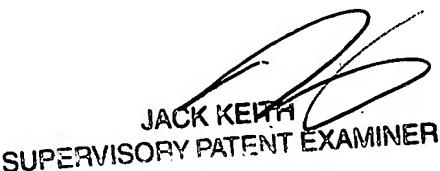
19. The prior art, which is cited but not relied upon, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ari M. Diacou whose telephone number is (571) 272-5591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on (571) 272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AMD 3/4/2007



JACK KEITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER